

ASMS Frequently Asked Questions:

Welcome to the ASMS Family!

These are some student responses to different questions you might have about the ASMS experience.

Dorm Life

- **What is living with a roommate like?**
 - It's a blast. Once you get to know your roommate, you all could become best friends for a lifetime. If you ever have any issues with your roommate, talk to them about it. If you're not a confrontational person, then ask your Peer Advisor (PA) or Hall Staff to help you address it so everything can be worked out!
- **Can you cook in your dorms?**
 - Yes! There are cooking appliances that everyone can use including a microwave, hot plate, pots and pans, Keurig, and even a waffle maker.
- **What should I pack for my dorm?**
 - The basic things to pack are a bedding set (including fitted sheet, flat sheet, comforter, and pillows), mattress topper, desk lamp, and a few weeks' worth of clothes. We suggest bringing a hanging shoe organizer for your wardrobe and some form of extra storage for either under your bed or in your wardrobe. We also highly recommend bringing some decorations that make your room feel homier, it will make you feel more comfortable and make it feel less like a dorm room and more like your room.
- **What do I do if I have to take medicine at night or in the morning?**
 - Your parents will fill out a form over the summer that details what sorts of medicine you are allowed to bring on campus. Some over the counter ones like Advil or Benadryl you can keep in your room! If you need it to be kept by the nurse, you can get a doctor's note and the nurse will open her office at a certain time every morning for you to get the medicine. The Hall Staff will do the same at night. If you sleep past the morning medicine time, a Hall Staff member can unlock the office for you.
- **How do you keep the dorms clean?**
 - Once every week we have professional cleaners come and deep clean the bathrooms and hallways of the dorms. Every day during the week, you and your roommate will alternate tasks for what is called Bathroom Duty. You will get an assignment every other day with chores such as sweeping the hall or cleaning out the microwave. If you don't know how to do a task, your PA will happily assist you! Every week we have room inspections where the hall staff will come by and check to make sure your room is clean, so you have to be sure to be on top of keeping your room organized.

Academics

- **What do I do if I need help with a class?**
 - If you're having difficulty in a class, there are different labs on campus that you are able to attend daily to receive help. Teachers are also required to have 6 mandatory office hours that you are able to go to if you are free! Don't be afraid to ask! :)

- **Will we get any breaks during our school days? If so, what should I do during them?**
 - Depending on your schedule, you will more than likely have at least one break throughout the day. On these 55 min breaks, we recommend you study for an upcoming test, take a quick nap, or get help with some assignments. However, work service may be taken up on that break. It all just depends! Whatever works best for you!
- **It's the first day of class, I have my schedule, and I don't know where to go. What do I do?**
 - When you are going over your schedule just remember that B stands for Bedsole building, H stands for Humanities, and S stands for Science. You will get class numbers, for example, S302. This class will be located in the science building, on the third floor, the second class in the hall! If you are still confused, don't be afraid to ask!

Campus Life

- **Can incoming students have a car on campus?**
 - Unfortunately, sophomores cannot have cars on campus. Juniors can have a car on campus, but only to drive home. Incoming juniors may have cars after the first term. Seniors may have cars on campus and drive off around Mobile during the week.
- **I'm coming from a remote part of the state and don't know anyone coming to ASMS. Will I be able to make friends?**
 - Absolutely! You are not alone in this situation. Many of our students don't know anyone when they first come to ASMS and find it easy to make friends! Students here are very like-minded, accepting, nice, and really supportive of you! Don't be afraid to invite someone to Starbucks or go introduce yourself. You may just make a life-long friend :)
- **What sort of study spaces do you have on campus?**
 - In every dorm floor there is a lobby area for hanging out or studying. We also have a huge library with three rooms for collaborative assignments, and many tables and desks are available for silent work. We also have tables on the first floor of our Humanities building, a coffee house, and a courtyard that students can use to hang out or study. You can also study in your room if you wish.

Student Activities

- **What is there to do after school hours?**
 - ASMS is known for having so many clubs, including Truth Hunters Club, Quidditch Club, Green Peace, Drawing Club, and so many others. Along with club events, SGA hosts campus events weekly! There are also plenty of walk off spots around Mobile and runs for students to go on with Hall Staff.
 - "Walk Off" refers to students being able to leave campus by walking off in a minimum group of 3 students. Parents sign a Walk-Off Privilege Permission form at the beginning of each year. "Runs" refer to scheduled school provided transport to various places and events in Mobile and surrounding areas. For example, there are "Wal-Mart runs" a student can sign-up for to go shopping, "Food runs" to various restaurants, "Movie Theater runs," etc...
- **Can incoming students run for SGA or class officer positions?**
 - Yes! As an incoming sophomore or junior you can run for either a class officer position or to be a class representative for SGA.

- **What sort of sports do you have? And do I have to be super athletic to join one?**
 - One perk of being at ASMS is being on our super fun sports teams! Lots of students on our teams have never played that sport before. Although we can get competitive, we are still committed to academics first and try to have fun with sports! We have volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, cross country, soccer, and tennis. We also have some PE classes such as cycling, jogging, boxing, ultimate frisbee, and swimming.

Tips for Incoming Students

- Practice time management first and foremost. Get yourself a planner! It really helps. Try not to procrastinate on assignments too much. You'll be surprised how quickly they can pile up. Make sure to prioritize school and leisure effectively. If you are feeling overwhelmed, don't hesitate to hang out with friends! But if you feel stressed about not having something done, maybe go ahead and do that assignment :)
 - Don't be afraid to ask for help! Some of us were really scared to ask for help in classes or worried about adjusting to the school our incoming year because of being judged. This couldn't have been more wrong! Our teachers are genuinely excited that we come to ask questions and were happy to help us to understand! All of our friends, and even upperclassmen we did not know, were happy to help us understand subjects like Trig or AP Chemistry. "Help will always be given at [ASMS] to those who ask for it" - Dumbledore ☺
 - When you first get to ASMS, don't be afraid to get out and communicate with your peers. There will be plenty of activities for you to partake in, so don't hesitate to participate! It's a new school year for everyone so make some new friends and explore! :)
 - Check your e-mail two to three times a day! This is the primary form of communication for the school. You are responsible for checking it, replying to messages you receive, and acting on anything sent to you. Saying "I don't check my e-mail" is not an excuse, so it's good to get used to reading through and replying to your e-mail messages as soon as you're on campus.
 - Leave your dorm room!!! It's super important to build relationships that help make ASMS feel more like home! Staying in your room will just build up more stress, and it will distract you from all the good the school does offer. Manage your time, get your work done, but don't feel like that's the only thing you have time to do!
- Follow the school on social media – Instagram: @asmsdragons or the official ASMS Facebook page. These are other forms of communication the school uses. It's also a great way to stay in the loop about what's going on around campus, to find out about opportunities, and to celebrate the positive things happening at ASMS. Who knows – you or your friends just might be featured!

For Incoming Juniors

- If you think you're behind the rest of the juniors, YOU'RE NOT. You all are taking the same classes so there's no need for you to catch up to anyone who attended ASMS the year before. If you feel overwhelmed with the workload you have, ask students for or help or talk to your teacher! No one will hesitate to help!
- Go to junior events! Oftentimes incoming juniors find themselves merging with the sophomores because they are going through the same transition which is totally fine, but make sure you get involved with the juniors! The current juniors are just as excited to meet you all as

you are! It's important to build relationships within your own class in case you need help with school work or need roommates for junior trip. It will be easier to join the junior class then you think!

Have More Questions? Please Let Us Know!

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